



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**File No. 251**

Senate Bill No. 291

*Senate, April 9, 2003*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1      Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) The Department of  
2      Children and Families shall establish, within available appropriations,  
3      a kinship foster care program. Such program shall ensure that when a  
4      child has been removed from his or her home and is in the care,  
5      custody or guardianship of the department, the department attempts  
6      to identify a relative of the child who would be appropriate for  
7      placement of the child. If the department determines that it is in the  
8      best interest of the child to be placed with a relative for foster care, the  
9      department shall inform the relative regarding procedures to become  
10     licensed as a foster parent.

This act shall take effect as follows:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
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**KID**      *Joint Favorable C/R*

HS

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

Provisions in this bill are sufficiently similar to current agency policy so as to preclude a fiscal impact to the Department of Children and Families. The department currently requires that preference be given to relatives when children are removed from their home.

There were 1,004 children in relative foster care as of March 31, 2003. Per Section 17a-114 CGS, all relative foster parents with whom a child was placed after July 1, 2001, are subject to mandatory foster care licensure after the child has been in placement for ninety days unless granted a waiver by the commissioner.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 291

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PROGRAM****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to establish a program through which it attempts to identify a relative with whom it can appropriately place a child who is removed from his home and placed in DCF custody. If DCF determines that the child's best interests call for placing him in foster care with a relative, the bill requires DCF to tell the relative how to become licensed as a foster parent. The bill requires DCF to establish this kinship foster care program within available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**BACKGROUND*****DCF Policy***

DCF policy states that the most desirable option when it removes a child from home may be temporary placement with relatives to whom the child is emotionally attached and who can ensure the child's safety (*DCF Policy Manual* 34-10-7). It also states that in considering foster care placement for a child, DCF must give preference to relatives or extended family (*DCF Policy Manual* 36-60).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 9      Nay 4

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 18      Nay 0

